

U.S. Serial No. 10/711,428
Examiner: James R. Bidwell
Art Unit: 3651
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REMARKS

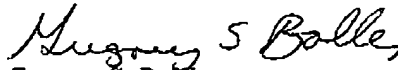
Favorable consideration of this Response and Amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 23, 25, and 30 are currently amended, Claims 4, 24, and 34 have been cancelled, Claims 2, 3, 5-22, 26-29, 31-33 and 35-42 are currently unchanged, and Claims 43-76 are new. All pending claims are presented for consideration by way of the present Response and Amendment.

In the Office action dated January 25, 2006, the Examiner indicated that Claims 18-22 are allowed and Claims 4, 11-13, 24, 34, and 35 are objected to. The Applicant's thank the Examiner for identifying allowable subject-matter and have amended the claims to claim the indicated allowable subject-matter. Specifically, Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of objected Claim 4. Further, Claim 61 has been added, which includes the limitations from original Claim 1 and original objected Claim 11. Claim 23 has been amended to include the limitation of objected Claim 24. Claim 25 has been amended to include the limitation from objected Claim 34. Finally, Claim 43 has been added, which includes the limitations from original Claim 25 and objected Claim 4. All remaining claims depend from the independent claims discussed above.

In view of the amendments and remarks presented herein, it is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. The Applicants kindly request that the Examiner call the attorneys of record in the event a telephone discussion would be helpful in advancing the prosecution of the present application.

It is believed that an extension of time is not necessary for this response and amendment. However, if an extension of time is necessary, please charge deposit account no. 50-0231 for the necessary extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,


Gregory S. Bollis
Reg. No. 52,630

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JohnsonDiversey, Inc.
8310 16th Street
Sturtevant, WI 53177
262-631-4593